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June _____

Dear _____ :

Some books are so horrible--horrible by virtue of the directness and savagery with which they assail commonly accepted opinion--that we feel obliged to ignore them.

At our peril, however, we ignore books whose horror consists in the devastation they do to popular historical conviction. Those books are as likely to make history as to record it. They take accepted opinion--usually opinion rendered sacrosanct by a well-publicized national consensus--and transform it. Where before there were certainties, what remains after reading are new questions, skepticisms, the beginnings of real inquiry.

When the issue of such books is the procedure and methods by which a Presidential Commission of Inquiry, presided over by the nation's highest judicial officer, inquires into the murder of its President, it is a matter, indeed, which, however horrible to consider, must be considered.

Mark Lane's long-awaited RUSH TO JUDGMENT, A Critique of the Warren Commission's Inquiry into the Murders of President John F. Kennedy, Officer J. D. Tippit and Lee Harvey Oswald (to be published on August 15th, not September 8th as previously announced) is such a horrifying book. Quietly, searchingly, with a patience and pertinacity almost monumental, Mark Lane has developed a critique of the Warren Commission Report which has shaken me and my associates. Where before I was content to believe that the published findings were conclusive, I have no such certainty now. Precisely the opposite. RUSH TO JUDGMENT persuades me that we know terrifyingly little about what actually transpired on November 22, 1963, in Dallas.

RUSH TO JUDGMENT shatters complacency. Surely, responsible book publishers, such as Holt, Rinehart and Winston, do not publish such a work casually, nor do they print 30,000 copies without circumspection. The nation should attend to Mark Lane's RUSH TO JUDGMENT. It may be horrible to read, but once you begin, RUSH TO JUDGMENT is impossible to put down.

(signed) Arthur A. Cohen
Vice President
and Editor in Chief

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183 MADISON AVENUE / NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 / TEL. 212 MU-8-9100